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Advancement of women

Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 34/180, adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In subsequent resolutions, including resolutions 49/164, 51/68 and 53/118, the Assembly urged States parties that had not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible, and requested the Secretary-General to report on the status of the Convention (see A/34/180; A/49/164; A/51/68; and A/53/118). In its resolution 53/118, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fourth session, in 1999, a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of that resolution.

II. Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

2. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 1 March 1980, and in accordance with article 27, it entered into force on 3 September 1981.

3. As at 1 August 1999, a total of 163 States parties had ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention, of which 60 had acceded and six had succeeded to it. In addition, three States were signatories to the Convention. The last country to ratify the Convention was Djibouti, on 2 December 1998 (see annex I for the complete list of States that have signed, ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention as at 1 August 1999, as well as the dates of the signatures and receipt of the instruments of ratification, accession or succession).

4. As at 1 August 1999, 22 States parties had deposited with the Secretary-General instruments of the acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention. During the period from 1 August 1998 to 1 August 1999, Guatemala deposited its instrument of acceptance of the amendment (3 June 1999) (see annex II for the complete list of States that have deposited with the Secretary-General instruments of the acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1).

5. During the period from 1 August 1998 to 1 August 1999, no reservations were made. The last country to enter reservations to the Convention was Myanmar. Objections were received from France (see annex III). A communication was received from the Kingdom of the Netherlands (see annex IV). Withdrawals of reservations and declarations were received from Belgium (see annex V). Maldives entered modifications of its reservations (see annex VI).

III. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: working methods and capacity to fulfil its mandate

A. Consideration of the reports of States parties

6. In its resolution 53/118, the General Assembly expressed concern at the great number of reports required under article 18 of the Convention that were overdue and continue to be overdue, in particular initial reports. The Assembly urged States parties to the Convention to make all possible efforts to submit their reports in accordance with article 18 and the guidelines provided by the Committee in the presentation of their reports.

7. In order to address the backlog of reports awaiting to be considered and encourage States parties to report in time, at its twentieth session, the Committee reiterated its decision 16/111, in which it decided, on an exceptional basis and as a temporary measure, to invite States parties to combine a maximum of two reports. The Committee also decided that when a State party's initial report is long overdue, it would consider a revised reporting schedule with regard to that State party's periodic reports at the session at which it presents its initial report, and to inform the State party accordingly.

8. At the twentieth session, the Committee decided that in introducing their initial and periodic reports, States parties should provide an oral presentation updating their written reports that should be no longer than 45 minutes and 60 minutes, respectively. The time limit for oral presentations would be reflected in the Committee's programme of work and in the *Journal* of the United Nations.

9. As at 1 August 1999, the reports of 35 States parties were awaiting consideration by the Committee (see annex VII).

10. During the period 1 August 1998 to 1 August 1999, the reports of 13 States parties were received by the Secretary-General, from Belgium (third periodic report); Democratic Republic of Congo (initial, second and third reports); Germany (combined second and third, and fourth periodic reports); Iraq (combined second and third periodic reports); Maldives (initial report); Mongolia (third and fourth periodic

reports); Myanmar (initial report); the Netherlands (second periodic report); Romania (combined fourth and fifth periodic reports); Russian Federation (fifth periodic report); Slovenia (second periodic report); Ukraine (combined fourth and fifth periodic reports); and Uruguay (second and third periodic reports).

11. Also during the period 1 August 1998 to 1 August 1999, the Committee considered the reports of 14 States parties: five initial reports; one combined initial and second report; three combined second and third periodic reports; the second and third periodic reports of one State party; the third and fourth periodic reports of three States parties; and one fourth periodic report (see annex VIII).

B. Overdue reports

12. Following the initial report, which is due one year after the ratification, States parties are required under article 18 of the Convention to submit reports every four years or whenever the Committee so requests.

13. As at 1 August 1999, there were 252 overdue reports, of which 54 are initial reports, 57 second periodic reports, 39 third periodic reports, 64 fourth periodic reports, and 38 fifth periodic reports (see annex IX). A list of reports which have been overdue for more than five years is presented to the Committee at each session (see annex X for the current list).

C. Exceptional reports

14. Since its establishment in 1981, the Committee has considered five reports submitted on an exceptional basis: from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At its twenty-first session, in June 1999, the Committee adopted decision 21/I relating to exceptional reports. It decided that it may sometimes be necessary to request exceptional reports from States parties under article 18.1 (b) of the Convention in order to obtain and examine the information on an actual or potential violation of women's human rights, where there is special cause for concern about such violation. The Committee adopted the following standards and guidelines for such reports:

(a) There should be reliable and adequate information indicating grave or systematic violations of women's human rights;

(b) Such violations are those that are gender-based or directed at women because of their sex;

(c) Reports should focus on a particular issue or issues identified by the Committee;

(d) States parties shall submit their reports for consideration at such session as the Committee determines.

D. Pre-session working group

15. In accordance with Committee suggestions 16/2 and 18/1, the pre-session working group for the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the Committee were convened at the end of the session prior to the one at which selected States parties were to report. In order to effect a smooth transition to this pattern of work, the pre-session working group for the twenty-first session met during the twentieth session and remained for three days after that session to consolidate the lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports to be considered at the twenty-first session. The pre-session working group for the twenty-second session met for five days following the twenty-first session of the Committee.

16. At its twentieth session, the Committee decided that in its formulation of the lists of issues and questions with regard to periodic reports, the pre-session working group should concentrate on major issues and trends, and should limit the number of issues and questions so as to encourage constructive dialogue between the Committee and States parties during the presentation of reports. The Committee also decided that the list of issues and questions with respect to periodic reports should normally be sent to States parties presenting their periodic reports within two weeks of the conclusion of the pre-session working group, and that States parties should submit their written answers no later than four weeks after receipt of the list of issues and questions. States parties' answers should normally be submitted for translation so as to be available to Committee members at least four weeks before the session at which their reports were to be considered.

E. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

17. At its twentieth session, in January 1999, the Committee adopted general recommendation 24 on article 12 (Women and health). At its twenty-first session, in June 1999, the Committee decided to forward general

recommendation 24 to the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

18. At its twentieth session, the Committee decided that work on a general recommendation on article 4 of the Convention would begin at its twenty-second session, in January 2000.

F. Concluding comments

19. In light of the fact that several States parties have submitted observations on concluding comments, at its twenty-first session, the Committee adopted decision 21/II, in which it decided that observations by States parties on concluding comments will be circulated to members of the Committee and their receipt acknowledged in an annex to the Committee's next annual report to the General Assembly. The Committee may decide to make available such observations independently of its annual report.

G. Non-governmental organizations

20. At its twentieth session, in January 1999, recalling its decisions 18/I and 18/II concerning its relationship with NGOs, the Committee decided that representatives of national and international non-governmental organizations should be invited to provide country-specific information on States parties whose reports are before the Committee in an informal meeting of the Working Group of the Whole. In accordance with the decision, the Committee heard country-specific information from NGOs at its twentieth and twenty-first sessions.

IV. Optional protocol

21. In its resolution 53/118, the General Assembly welcomed the progress made by the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Commission on the Status of Women, and encouraged it to continue its work with a view to completing it at the forty-third session of the Commission in March 1999.

22. At its forty-third session, the Commission on the Status of Women recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve a draft resolution on the optional protocol for adoption by the General Assembly.[1] The resolution would adopt and open for signature, ratification and accession the optional protocol to the Convention, the text of which was attached to the resolution. The Economic and Social Council approved the draft resolution at its session in July 1999.

23. At its twenty-first session, in June 1999, Silvia Cartwright, the member of the Committee designated by it to act as the resource person to the Open-ended Working Group, briefed the Committee on the proceedings of the Open-ended Working Group and the decisions of the forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women with regard to the Optional Protocol. The Committee requested the Secretariat to provide information at its twenty-second session on procedures employed with regard to existing treaty-based communications and inquiry mechanisms and a substantive comparative analysis of the Optional Protocol adopted by the Commission with existing United Nations treaty-based communications and inquiry mechanisms.

V. Technical assistance to States parties

24. In its resolution 53/118, the General Assembly encouraged the Secretariat to extend technical assistance to States parties at their request, in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and invited Governments to contribute to those efforts.

25. On 8 and 9 July 1999, the Division for the Advancement of Women organized a subregional training workshop for States parties to the Convention at Cotonou, Benin. The objective of the workshop was to provide technical assistance and guidance to States parties on preparing reports required under article 18 of the Convention, in particular initial reports. Those States parties which attended the workshop were: Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Senegal and Togo.

26. Follow-up technical assistance was also provided to Benin, with a consultant providing guidance on the preparation of reports over a two-week period following the workshop.

VI. Twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

27. The twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention was commemorated during the twenty-first session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in June 1999. The commemoration, which took place before the Committee took up the regular work of its session, consisted of two parts: a solemn commemoration of the adoption of the Convention, and a round table on the impact of the Convention at the domestic level.

28. The twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention was also commemorated by a round table held during the Commission on the Status of Women, chaired by Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the participation of Anne Anderson, Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, Patricia Flor, Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women, Angela E.V. King, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

29. Both events emphasized the catalytic role of the Convention and its critical contribution to the quest for equality between women and men. It was also noted that while much progress had been made towards this goal, particularly with regard to equal franchise and political participation, much more was required. The important contribution of past and present members of the Committee, particularly its Chairpersons, to the implementation of the Convention was also stressed.

VII. Information dissemination

30. During the period since the General Assembly adopted its resolution 53/118, the Division for the Advancement of Women has continued to develop the space on its home page on the World Wide Web devoted to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Division has continued its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *inter alia*, through maintaining links between the Division's Web site and that of the Office of the High Commissioner.

31. The Committee has also emphasized the importance of dissemination of information about the Convention and its work. Accordingly, at its twentieth session, in January 1999, it decided that the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat should make its best efforts to ensure that all United Nations information centres were informed of the reports to be taken up by the Committee at its sessions. It further recommended that the Department make its best efforts to ensure that the information centres received the concluding comments of the Committee as soon as possible and were encouraged to disseminate the concluding comments in the relevant States. The Division for the Advancement of Women should make its best efforts to inform regional commissions and regional intergovernmental organizations of the reports to be considered at the sessions of the Committee, and to provide those bodies with the concluding comments of the Committee.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 7* (E/1999/27), chap. I, sect. A, and chap. V.

Annex I

List of States parties that have signed, ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as at 1 August 1999

States parties	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Date of entry into force*
Albania	11 May 1994[a]	10 June 1994
Algeria	22 May 1996[a, b]	21 June 1996
Andorra	15 January 1997[a]	14 February 1997
Angola	17 September 1986[a]	17 October 1986
Antigua and Barbuda	1 August 1989[a]	31 August 1989
Argentina	15 July 1985[b]	14 August 1985
Armenia	13 September 1993[a]	13 October 1993
Australia	28 July 1983[b]	27 August 1983
Austria	31 March 1982[b]	30 April 1982
Azerbaijan	10 July 1995[a]	9 August 1995
Bahamas	6 October 1993[a]	5 November 1993
Bangladesh	6 November 1984[a, b]	6 December 1984
Barbados	16 October 1980	3 September 1981
Belarus	4 February 1981[c]	3 September 1981
Belgium	10 July 1985[b]	9 August 1985
Belize	16 May 1990	15 June 1990
Benin	12 March 1992	11 April 1992
Bhutan	31 August 1981	30 September 1981
Bolivia	8 June 1990	8 July 1990
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 September 1993[d]	1 October 1993
Botswana	13 August 1996[a]	12 September 1996
Brazil	1 February 1984[b]	2 March 1984
Bulgaria	8 February 1982[c]	10 March 1982
Burkina Faso	14 October 1987[a]	13 November 1987
Burundi	8 January 1992	7 February 1992
Cambodia	15 October 1992[a]	14 November 1992

States parties	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Date of entry into force*
Cameroon	23 August 1994[a]	22 September 1994
Canada	10 December 1981[c]	9 January 1982
Cape Verde	5 December 1980[a]	3 September 1981
Central African Republic	21 June 1991[a]	21 July 1991
Chad	9 June 1995[a]	9 July 1995
Chile	7 December 1989	6 January 1990
China	4 November 1980[b]	3 September 1981
Colombia	19 January 1982	18 February 1982
Comoros	31 October 1994[a]	30 November 1994
Congo	26 July 1982	25 August 1982
Costa Rica	4 April 1986	4 May 1986
Côte d'Ivoire	19 December 1995[a]	17 January 1996
Croatia	9 September 1992[d]	9 October 1992
Cuba	17 July 1980[b]	3 September 1981
Cyprus	23 July 1985[a, b]	22 August 1985
Czech Republic[e]	22 February 1993[c, d]	24 March 1993
Democratic Republic of the Congo[f]	17 October 1986	16 November 1986
Denmark	21 April 1983	21 May 1983
Djibouti	2 December 1998[a]	1 January 1999
Dominica	15 September 1980	3 September 1981
Dominican Republic	2 September 1982	2 October 1982
Ecuador	9 November 1981	9 December 1981
Egypt	18 September 1981[b]	18 October 1981
El Salvador	19 August 1981[b]	18 September 1981
Equatorial Guinea	23 October 1984[a]	22 November 1984
Eritrea	5 September 1995[a]	5 October 1995
Estonia	21 October 1991[a]	20 November 1991
Ethiopia	10 September 1981[b]	10 October 1981
Fiji	28 August 1995[a, b]	27 September 1995
Finland	4 September 1986	4 October 1986
France	14 December 1983[b, c]	13 January 1984
Gabon	21 January 1983	20 February 1983

States parties	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Date of entry into force*
Gambia	16 April 1993	16 May 1993
Georgia	26 October 1994[a]	25 November 1994
Germany [g]	10 July 1985[b]	9 August 1985
Ghana	2 January 1986	1 February 1986
Greece	7 June 1983	7 July 1983
Grenada	30 August 1990	29 September 1990
Guatemala	12 August 1982	11 September 1982
Guinea	9 August 1982	8 September 1982
Guinea-Bissau	23 August 1985	22 September 1985
Guyana	17 July 1980	3 September 1981
Haiti	20 July 1981	3 September 1981
Honduras	3 March 1983	2 April 1983
Hungary	22 December 1980[c]	3 September 1981
Iceland	18 June 1985	18 July 1985
India	9 July 1993[b]	8 August 1993
Indonesia	13 September 1984[b]	13 October 1984
Iraq	13 August 1986[a, b]	12 September 1986
Ireland	23 December 1985[a, b, c]	22 January 1986
Israel	3 October 1991[b]	2 November 1991
Italy	10 June 1985[b]	10 July 1985
Jamaica	19 October 1984[b]	18 November 1984
Japan	25 June 1985	25 July 1985
Jordan	1 July 1992[b]	31 July 1992
Kazakhstan	26 August 1998[a]	25 September 1998
Kenya	9 March 1984[a]	8 April 1984
Kuwait	2 September 1994[a]	2 October 1994
Kyrgyzstan	10 February 1997[a]	12 March 1997
Lao People's Democratic Republic	14 August 1981	13 September 1981
Latvia	14 April 1992[a]	14 May 1992
Lebanon	21 April 1997[a, b]	21 May 1997
Lesotho	22 August 1995[a, b]	21 September 1995
Liberia	17 July 1984[a]	16 August 1984

States parties	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Date of entry into force*
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	16 May 1989[a, b]	15 June 1989
Liechtenstein	22 December 1995[a, c]	21 January 1996
Lithuania	18 January 1994[a]	17 February 1994
Luxembourg	2 February 1989[b]	4 March 1989
Madagascar	17 March 1989	16 April 1989
Malawi	12 March 1987[a, c]	11 April 1987
Malaysia	5 July 1995[a, b]	4 August 1995
Maldives	1 July 1993[a, b]	31 July 1993
Mali	10 September 1985	10 October 1985
Malta	8 March 1991[a, b]	7 April 1991
Mauritius	9 July 1984[a, c]	8 August 1984
Mexico	23 March 1981[b]	3 September 1981
Mongolia	20 July 1981[c]	3 September 1981
Morocco	21 June 1993[a, b]	21 July 1993
Mozambique	16 April 1997[a]	16 May 1997
Myanmar	22 July 1997[a, b]	21 August 1997
Namibia	23 November 1992[a]	23 December 1992
Nepal	22 April 1991	22 May 1991
Netherlands	23 July 1991[b]	22 August 1991
New Zealand	10 January 1985[b, c]	9 February 1985
Nicaragua	27 October 1981	26 November 1981
Nigeria	13 June 1985	13 July 1985
Norway	21 May 1981	3 September 1981
Pakistan	12 March 1996[a, b]	11 April 1996
Panama	29 October 1981	28 November 1981
Papua New Guinea	12 January 1995[a]	11 February 1995
Paraguay	6 April 1987[a]	6 May 1987
Peru	13 September 1982	13 October 1982
Philippines	5 August 1981	4 September 1981
Poland	30 July 1980[c]	3 September 1981
Portugal	30 July 1980	3 September 1981
Republic of Korea	27 December 1984[b, c]	26 January 1985
Republic of Moldova	1 July 1994[a]	31 July 1994

States parties	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Date of entry into force*
Romania	7 January 1982[b]	6 February 1982
Russian Federation	23 January 1981[c]	3 September 1981
Rwanda	2 March 1981	3 September 1981
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 April 1985[a]	25 May 1985
Saint Lucia	8 October 1982[a]	7 November 1982
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4 August 1981[a]	3 September 1981
Samoa	25 September 1992[a]	25 October 1992
Senegal	5 February 1985	7 March 1985
Seychelles	5 May 1992[a]	4 June 1992
Sierra Leone	11 November 1988	11 December 1988
Singapore	5 October 1995[a b]	4 November 1995
Slovakia[e]	28 May 1993[c d]	27 June 1993
Slovenia	6 July 1992[d]	5 August 1992
South Africa	15 December 1995[a]	14 January 1996
Spain	5 January 1984[b]	4 February 1984
Sri Lanka	5 October 1981	4 November 1981
Suriname	1 March 1993[a]	31 March 1993
Sweden	2 July 1980	3 September 1981
Switzerland	27 March 1997[a]	26 April 1997
Tajikistan	26 October 1993[a]	25 November 1993
Thailand	9 August 1985[a b c]	8 September 1985
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994[d]	17 February 1994
Togo	26 September 1983[a]	26 October 1983
Trinidad and Tobago	12 January 1990[b]	11 February 1990
Tunisia	20 September 1985[b]	20 October 1985
Turkey	20 December 1985[a b]	19 January 1986
Turkmenistan	1 May 1997[a]	31 May 1997
Uganda	22 July 1985	21 August 1985
Ukraine	12 March 1981[c]	3 September 1981
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7 April 1986[b]	7 May 1986

States parties	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Date of entry into force*
United Republic of Tanzania	20 August 1985	19 September 1985
Uruguay	9 October 1981	8 November 1981
Uzbekistan	19 July 1995[a]	18 August 1995
Vanuatu	8 September 1995[a]	8 October 1995
Venezuela	2 May 1983[b]	1 June 1983
Viet Nam	17 February 1982[b]	19 March 1982
Yemen[h]	30 May 1984[a, b]	29 June 1984
Yugoslavia	26 February 1982	28 March 1982
Zambia	21 June 1985	21 July 1985
Zimbabwe	13 May 1991[a]	12 June 1991

[a] Accession.

[b] Declarations and reservations.

[c] Reservation subsequently withdrawn.

[d] Succession.

[e] Before becoming separate States on 1 January 1993, the Czech Republic and Slovakia formed part of Czechoslovakia, which State had ratified the Convention on 16 February 1982.

[f] Effective 17 May 1997, Zaire was renamed Democratic Republic of the Congo.

[g] With effect from 3 October 1990, the German Democratic Republic (which ratified the Convention on 9 July 1980) and the Federal Republic of Germany (which ratified the Convention on 10 July 1985) united to form one sovereign State, which acts in the United Nations under the designation "Germany".

[h] On 22 May 1990, Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State, which acts in the United Nations under the designation "Yemen".

Annex II

States parties which have deposited with the Secretary-General instruments of the acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph I, of the Convention

States parties	*Acceptance date*
Australia	4 June 1998
Brazil	5 March 1997
Canada	3 November 1997
Chile	8 May 1998
Denmark	12 March 1996
Finland	18 March 1996
France	8 August 1997
Guatemala	3 June 1999
Italy	31 May 1996
Liechtenstein	15 April 1997
Madagascar	19 July 1996
Malta	5 March 1997
Mexico	16 September 1996
Mongolia	19 December 1997
Netherlands	10 December 1997[a]
New Zealand	26 September 1996
Norway	29 March 1996
Republic of Korea	12 August 1996
Panama	5 November 1996
Sweden	17 July 1996
Switzerland	2 December 1997
United Kingdom	19 November 1997[b]

[a] For the Kingdom in Europe, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

[b] For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the British Virgin Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Annex III

Objections to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women made between 1 August 1998 and 1 August 1999

[20 July 1998]

"The Government of France considers that the reservation made by Malaysia, as expressed in the partial withdrawal and modifications made by Malaysia on 6 February 1998, is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. The Government of France therefore objects to the [said] reservation."

Annex IV

Communication received from the Kingdom of the Netherlands

[21 July 1998]

"The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has examined the modification of reservations made by Malaysia to articles 5 (a) and 16.1 (a) and paragraph 2 of the [said] Convention.

"The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands acknowledges that Malaysia has specified these reservations, made at the time of its accession to the Convention. Nevertheless, the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to declare that it assumes that Malaysia will ensure implementation of the rights enshrined in the above articles and will strive to bring its relevant national legislation into conformity with the obligations imposed by the Convention. This declaration shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Malaysia."

Annex V

Withdrawals of reservations and declarations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women between 1 August 1998 and 1 August 1999

[14 September 1998]

"The Government of Belgium declares that it withdraws the reservation relating to article 7 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women made on 10 July 1985 upon deposit of its instrument of ratification, the text of which reads as follows:

"The application of article 7 shall not affect the validity of the provisions of the Constitution as laid down in article 60, which reserves for men the exercise of royal powers, and in article 58, which reserves for the sons of the King or, where there are none, for the Belgian princes of the branch of the royal family in line to the throne, the function of *ex officio* senators as from the age 18 years, with entitlement to vote as from the age of 25 years."

Annex VI

Modification of reservation received between 1 August 1998 and 1 August 1999

[22 March 1999]

"1. The Government of the Republic of Maldives expresses its reservation to article 7 (a) of the Convention, to the extent that the provision contained in the said paragraph conflicts with the provision of article 34 of the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives.

"2. The Government of the Republic of Maldives reserves its right to apply article 16 of the Convention concerning the equality of men and women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations without prejudice to the provisions of the Islamic Sharia, which govern all marital and family relations of the 100 per cent Muslim population of the Maldives."

Annex VII

States parties whose reports have been submitted but have not yet been considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as of 1 August 1999

State party	*Date due*	*Date received*	*Document symbol*
A. Initial reports			
Cameroon	22 September 1995	9 May 1999	CEDAW/C/CMR/1
Democratic Republic of the Congo[a]	16 November 1987	1 March 1994	CEDAW/C/ZAR/1
India	8 August 1994	2 February 1999	CEDAW/C/IND/1
Jordan	31 July 1993	27 October 1997	CEDAW/C/JOR/1
Lithuania	17 February 1995	4 June 1998	CEDAW/C/LTU/1
Maldives	1 July 1994	28 January 1999	CEDAW/C/MDV/1
Myanmar	21 August 1998	14 March 1999	CEDAW/C/MMR/1
Republic of Moldova	31 July 1995	26 October 1998	CEDAW/C/MDA/1
B. Second periodic reports			
Democratic Republic of the Congo[a]	16 November 1991	24 October 1996	CEDAW/C/ZAR/2
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 June 1994	14 December 1998	CEDAW/C/LBY/2
Netherlands	22 August 1996	10 December 1998	CEDAW/C/NET/2 and Add.1 and Add.2
Slovenia	5 August 1997	26 April 1999	CEDAW/C/SVN/2
Viet Nam	19 March 1987	February 1999	CEDAW/C/VNM/2
C. Combined second and third periodic reports			
Burkina Faso	13 November 1996	11 December 1997	CEDAW/C/BFA/2-3
Equatorial Guinea	22 November 1993	6 January 1994	CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3
Germany	9 August 1994	8 October 1996	CEDAW/C/DEU/2-3
Iraq	12 September 1995	13 October 1998	CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3
Uruguay	8 November 1990	3 February 1998	CEDAW/C/URY/2-3
D. Combined second, third and fourth periodic reports			
Jamaica	18 November 1993	17 February 1998	CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4
E. Third periodic reports			
Belarus	3 September 1990	1 July 1993	CEDAW/C/BLR/3
Democratic Republic of the Congo[a]	16 November 1995	2 July 1998	CEDAW/C/COD/1
Egypt	18 October 1990	30 January 1996	CEDAW/C/EGY/3
Finland	4 October 1995	28 January 1997	CEDAW/C/FIN/3
Luxembourg	4 March 1998	12 March 1998	CEDAW/C/LUX/3
		17 June 1998	CEDAW/C/LUX/3/Add.1
Yugoslavia	28 March 1991	14 October 1998	CEDAW/C/YUG/3

State party	*Date due*	*Date received*	*Document symbol*
F. Combined third and fourth periodic reports			
Austria	30 April 1991	25 April 1997	CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4
Belgium	9 August 1998	29 September 1998	CEDAW/C/BEL/3-4
Iceland	3 July 1998	15 July 1998	CEDAW/C/ICE/3-4
Mongolia	3 September 1990	8 December 1998	CEDAW/C/MNG/3-4
G. Fourth periodic reports			
Denmark	21 May 1996	9 January 1997	CEDAW/C/DEN/4
Germany	9 August 1998	27 October 1998	CEDAW/C/DEU/4
Japan	25 July 1998	24 July 1998	CEDAW/C/JPN/4
Nicaragua	26 November 1994	16 June 1998	CEDAW/C/NIC/4
Sweden	3 September 1994	21 May 1996	CEDAW/C/SWE/4
H. Combined fourth and fifth periodic reports			
Romania	6 February 1995	10 December 1998	CEDAW/C/ROM/4-5
Ukraine	3 September 1994	2 August 1999	CEDAW/C/UKR/4-5
I. Fifth periodic reports			
Russian Federation	3 September 1998	3 March 1998	CEDAW/C/USR/5

[a] By a communication dated 20 May 1997, the Secretariat was informed by the Member State formerly known as Zaire that the name of the State had been changed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Annex VIII

Reports considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women during the period 1 August 1998 to 1 August 1999

A. Twentieth session

Initial reports

Algeria

Kyrgyzstan

Liechtenstein

Combined second and third periodic reports

Greece

Thailand

Third and fourth periodic reports

China

Fourth periodic reports

Colombia

B. Twenty-first session

Initial reports

Georgia

Nepal

Combined initial and second periodic reports

Belize

Combined second and third periodic reports

Ireland

Second and third periodic reports

China

Third and fourth periodic reports

Spain

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Annex IX

States parties whose reports are due and have not yet been submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as of 1 August 1999

State party	*Date due*
A. Initial reports	
Albania	10 June 1995
Andorra	14 February 1998
Angola	17 October 1987
Bahamas	5 November 1994
Benin	11 April 1993
Bhutan	30 September 1982
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 October 1994
Botswana	12 September 1997
Brazil	2 March 1985
Burundi	7 February 1993
Cambodia	14 November 1993
Cape Verde	3 September 1982
Central African Republic	21 July 1992
Chad	9 July 1996
Comoros	30 November 1995
Congo	25 August 1983
Costa Rica	4 May 1987
Côte d'Ivoire	17 January 1997
Djibouti	2 January 2000
Dominica	3 September 1982
Eritrea	5 October 1996
Estonia	20 November 1992
Fiji	27 September 1996
Gambia	16 May 1994
Grenada	29 September 1991
Guinea	8 September 1983
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1986
Haiti	3 September 1982
Kuwait	2 October 1995
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1982
Latvia	14 May 1993
Lebanon	21 May 1998
Lesotho	21 September 1996
Liberia	16 August 1985
Malaysia	4 August 1996

State party	*Date due*
Malta	7 April 1992
Mozambique	16 May 1998
Pakistan	11 May 1997
Papua New Guinea	11 February 1996
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1986
Saint Lucia	7 November 1983
Samoa	25 October 1993
Seychelles	4 June 1993
Sierra Leone	11 December 1984
Singapore	4 November 1989
Suriname	31 March 1994
Switzerland	26 May 1998
Tajikistan	25 October 1994
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	17 February 1995
Togo	26 October 1984
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1991
Turkmenistan	31 May 1998
Uzbekistan	18 August 1996
Vanuatu	8 October 1996
B. Second periodic reports	
Albania	10 June 1999
Angola	17 October 1991
Armenia	13 October 1998
Bahamas	5 November 1991
Benin	11 April 1997
Bhutan	30 September 1986
Bolivia	8 July 1995
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 October 1998
Brazil	2 March 1989
Burundi	7 February 1997
Cambodia	14 November 1997
Cameroon	22 September 1999
Cape Verde	3 September 1986
Central African Republic	21 July 1996
Comoros	30 November 1999
Congo	25 August 1987
Costa Rica	4 May 1991
Croatia	9 October 1997
Czech Republic	24 March 1997
Dominica	3 September 1986
Estonia	20 November 1996

State party	*Date due*
Gabon	20 February 1988
Gambia	16 May 1998
Georgia	25 November 1999
Grenada	29 September 1995
Guinea	8 September 1987
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1990
Guyana	3 September 1986
Haiti	3 September 1986
India	8 August 1998
Jordan	31 July 1997
Kuwait	2 October 1999
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1986
Latvia	14 May 1997
Liberia	16 August 1989
Lithuania	17 February 1999
Madagascar	16 April 1994
Malawi	11 April 1992
Maldives	1 July 1998
Mali	10 October 1990
Malta	7 April 1996
Morocco	21 July 1998
Namibia	23 December 1997
Nepal	22 May 1996
Republic of Moldova	31 July 1999
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1990
Saint Lucia	7 November 1987
Samoa	25 October 1997
Seychelles	4 June 1997
Sierra Leone	11 December 1993
Slovakia	27 June 1998
Suriname	31 March 1998
Tajikistan	25 October 1998
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	17 February 1999
Togo	26 October 1988
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1995
Zimbabwe	12 June 1996
C. Third periodic reports	
Angola	17 October 1995
Belize	15 June 1999
Bhutan	30 September 1990
Bolivia	7 July 1999

State party	*Date due*
Brazil	2 March 1993
Cape Verde	3 September 1990
Congo	25 August 1991
Costa Rica	4 May 1995
Cyprus	22 August 1994
Dominica	3 September 1990
El Salvador	18 September 1990
France	13 January 1993
Gabon	20 February 1992
Ghana	1 February 1995
Guatemala	11 September 1991
Guinea	8 September 1991
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1994
Guyana	3 September 1990
Haiti	3 September 1990
Kenya	8 April 1993
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1990
Liberia	16 August 1993
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 June 1998
Madagascar	16 April 1998
Malawi	11 April 1996
Mali	10 October 1994
Mauritius	8 August 1993
Paraguay	6 May 1996
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1994
Saint Lucia	7 November 1991
Senegal	7 March 1994
Sierra Leone	11 December 1997
Sri Lanka	7 November 1990
Togo	20 October 1992
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1999
Tunisia	20 October 1994
Uganda	21 August 1994
Viet Nam	19 March 1991
Zambia	21 July 1994
D. Fourth periodic reports	
Angola	17 October 1999
Argentina	14 August 1998
Australia	27 August 1996
Barbados	3 September 1995
Belarus	3 September 1994

State party	*Date due*
Bhutan	30 September 1994
Brazil	2 March 1997
Bulgaria	10 March 1995
Cape Verde	3 September 1994
Congo	25 August 1995
Costa Rica	4 May 1999
Cuba	3 September 1994
Cyprus	22 August 1998
Democratic Republic of the Congo	16 November 1999
Dominica	3 September 1994
Ecuador	9 December 1994
Egypt	18 October 1994
El Salvador	18 September 1994
Equatorial Guinea	22 November 1997
Ethiopia	10 October 1994
Finland	4 October 1999
France	13 January 1997
Gabon	20 February 1996
Ghana	1 February 1999
Greece	7 July 1996
Guatemala	11 September 1995
Guinea	8 September 1995
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1998
Guyana	3 September 1994
Haiti	3 September 1994
Honduras	2 April 1996
Hungary	3 September 1994
Indonesia	13 October 1997
Iraq	12 September 1999
Ireland	22 January 1999
Italy	10 July 1998
Kenya	8 April 1997
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1994
Liberia	16 August 1997
Mali	10 October 1998
Mauritius	8 August 1997
Nigeria	13 July 1998
Panama	28 November 1994
Poland	3 September 1994
Portugal	3 September 1994
Rwanda	3 September 1994

State party	*Date due*
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1998
Saint Lucia	7 November 1995
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1994
Senegal	7 March 1998
Sri Lanka	4 November 1994
Thailand	8 September 1998
Togo	26 October 1996
Tunisia	20 October 1998
Turkey	19 January 1999
Uganda	21 August 1998
Ukraine	3 September 1994
United Republic of Tanzania	19 September 1998
Uruguay	8 November 1994
Venezuela	1 June 1996
Viet Nam	19 March 1995
Yemen	29 June 1997
Yugoslavia	28 March 1995
Zambia	21 July 1998
E. Fifth periodic reports	
Australia	30 April 1999
Bulgaria	10 March 1999
Canada	9 January 1999
Colombia	18 February 1999
Congo	25 August 1999
Dominica	3 September 1998
Ecuador	9 December 1998
Egypt	9 October 1998
El Salvador	18 September 1998
Ethiopia	10 October 1998
Guyana	3 September 1998
Haiti	3 September 1998
Hungary	3 September 1998
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1998
Mexico	3 September 1998
Mongolia	3 September 1998
Nicaragua	26 November 1998
Norway	3 September 1998
Panama	28 November 1998
Philippines	4 September 1998
Poland	3 September 1998
Portugal	3 September 1998

State party	*Date due*
Rwanda	3 September 1998
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1998
Sri Lanka	4 November 1998
Sweden	3 September 1998
Uruguay	8 November 1998
Venezuela	19 March 1999
Yugoslavia	28 March 1998

Annex X

Reports of States parties which have been overdue for more than five years

State party	*Date due*
A. Initial reports	
Angola	17 October 1987
Benin	11 April 1993
Bhutan	30 September 1982
Brazil	2 March 1985
Burundi	7 February 1993
Cape Verde	3 September 1982
Central African Republic	21 July 1992
Congo	25 August 1983
Costa Rica	4 May 1987
Dominica	3 September 1982
Estonia	20 November 1992
Grenada	29 September 1991
Guinea	8 September 1983
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1986
Haiti	3 September 1982
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1982
Latvia	14 May 1993
Liberia	16 August 1985
Malta	7 April 1992
Nepal	22 May 1992
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1986
Saint Lucia	7 November 1983
Sierra Leone	11 December 1989
Togo	26 October 1984
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1991
B. Second periodic reports	
Angola	17 October 1991
Bhutan	30 September 1986
Brazil	2 March 1989
Cape Verde	3 September 1986
Congo	25 August 1987
Costa Rica	4 May 1991
Dominica	3 September 1986
Gabon	20 February 1988
Guinea	8 September 1987
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1990
Guyana	3 September 1986

State party	*Date due*
Haiti	3 September 1986
Iraq	12 September 1991
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1986
Liberia	16 August 1989
Malawi	11 April 1992
Mali	10 October 1990
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1990
Saint Lucia	7 November 1987
Togo	26 October 1988
Viet Nam	19 March 1987
C. Third periodic reports	
Bhutan	30 September 1990
Brazil	2 March 1993
Cape Verde	3 September 1990
Congo	25 August 1991
Dominica	3 September 1990
El Salvador	18 September 1990
France	13 January 1993
Gabon	20 February 1992
Guatemala	11 September 1991
Guinea	8 September 1991
Guyana	3 September 1990
Haiti	3 September 1990
Kenya	8 April 1993
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1990
Mongolia	3 September 1990
Saint Lucia	7 November 1991
Sri Lanka	4 November 1990
Togo	26 October 1992
Viet Nam	19 March 1991
Yugoslavia	28 March 1991